

Birthday and enjoy the story of "A Life Well Lived."

LENORE KARLIN—100 YEARS

What is a life well lived? Lenore Karlin exemplifies 100 well spent years.

Lenore was the first child born to Rose Wolf Gardner and Louis Gardner on April 25, 1918. Louis, a mite senior to his darling bride, Rose, couldn't have been happier. There were days when Mr. Gardner took baby in pram (decorated with American flags), paraded them down the street and placed Lenore in pram in his Kingston street Boston storefront window for the world to see. Louis, an immigrant, was a great patriot.

Two more children, Helene and Herbert followed. Louis, a shoe importer, took Rose and the children to Europe often for business and his great love, the opera. Whilst Rose and Louis enjoyed the Wagner ring in Beirut, Lenore, Helene and Herbert were tended by a nursemaid in Czechoslovakia.

These were magical voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. The children had a trunk just for toys. Lenore's father took them to factories where linens and China (perhaps even the teacups today) were crafted, as he was a collector of these fineries. They would return with cases of shoes and finery.

Morris Wolf, Lenore's grandfather on her mother's side was a well-respected detective for the Boston police, in fact the first Jewish one. He chased criminals around the globe. Lenore remembers as a child walking down the street with her grandfather who would don a prominent hat, and when they passed the mayor of Boston, in a gesture of respect, the mayor would tip his hat to Morris.

Lenore was an excellent student at Girl's Latin School. She excelled in all subjects. Unfortunately her father became ill when she was quite young and died when she was but 15 years old. But Lenore carried the firm foundation he planted with her: his ever-present optimism and enthusiasm throughout her life.

In the mid-late 1930's, German-Jewish refugees began arriving in Boston, homeless, penniless and without food. Lenore and her sister ventured house-to-house raising money for these people. Because of her efforts, the combined Jewish philanthropies asked her to speak at their annual dinner. She was seated next to the guest of honor, who held her hand and quelled her nerves. Lenore remembers this woman as the most beautiful blue-eyed woman ever—Eleanor Roosevelt helped Lenore get through her first public speaking engagement. That was just the beginning of Lenore's outward focused life. She has always generously given to several (and now hundreds) of charities of all sorts. Her pile of mail each day rivals corporations.

The Gardner house on Bicknell Street, had a game room on the 3rd floor, where friends often gathered. Some of Lenore's best friends lived on her street and nearby. Many happy times were spent there.

One night, Lenore was invited on a date with a guy she knew would be too busy to pay her any attention. She was envious of her sister who would be having a party at their house. She couldn't wait to get home from the formal affair and loll about with her homies. They had transferred to Jack Gottler's house across the street.

When Lenore opened the door, across the room she saw Harold, the handsomest man. "That man is my future husband", was her thought.

5 years later on August 31, 1941 in an intimate family ceremony Lenore and Harold married. World War II and children followed. For the war effort, Lenore rolled up her sleeves and participated in the Woman's Defense Corps.

There was loss, great tragedy and great love. Lenore and Harold wrote each other a letter every day of Harold's 18-month deployment and true to Lenore's squirreling, every one of those letters have been saved and assembled into albums. Patty was born on base in Florida. What a blessing for those tumultuous, unknowing, scary years to come to an end in victory. Lenore was present for her nephew Lewis' birth in Boca Raton on VJ day.

Now the young family could live their lives in a burgeoning victorious post-war USA. Harold began his practice in Boston and soon Bruce was born. The Karlins needed to feather a bigger nest. They did that at 20 Old Farm Road, Newton, and it remained the family homestead for 40odd years. Jill and Robin were born there. Many of you here today might recall the good times, the family times, the parties, the welcoming times that the Karlins entertained or were simply available. It seemed there wasn't a time/a night when after Lenore and Rosie poured their customary cocktail at 5:00 pm (and in the early years cigarettes) that someone wasn't showing up to join in the festivities. Lenore kept Martinis and Manhattans decanted in the fridge. Usually Uncle Leo and many others came by . . . Perhaps even one of you.

Harold would arrive after a day of work and visiting patients in the hospital and at bedside (usually after 7:30) and the family always ate some of Lenore's famous freezer concoctions together. There would be phone call after phone call and visit after visit: People coming for shots, prescriptions, ear cleaning (ear piercing once) marriage counseling, or just to hang out in the warmth of the Karlin kitchen.

People adored Harold and Lenore. They shared a great interest and love for people, which is why, over the years, they garnered so many friends including you. There were family vacations spent with some of you—the Jacksons, the Korsakovs, the Roberts, and the Sundells. Cape Cod, North Conway, or when Lenore and Harold would on an afternoon's notice head to Brazil. That took Hutsphah and organization to pull off. Lenore had, both, and some really good friends to look after the kids.

The friendships—so many people to this day call, remember and consider Lenore as a caring friend. The age range is vast—children to elderly. There was a time when there was a triumvirate: the hilarity of Shirley, Eunice, and Lenore rivaled Lucy and Ethel. The three girls managed to get in trouble like a sitcom. Taking a pee in the woods, playing golf and coming home with poison ivy in a very uncomfortable spot or trying snow skiing and laughing so hard that they were wet from more than snow.

The marriages, exchange students, friends, grandchildren—Lenore was sure to attend every meet, every match, every game even if it meant driving hours in harrowing conditions. Nothing daunted Lenore's support for her grandchildren—it was unwavering. Birthdays, anniversaries, births, graduations, special occasions, surely there are many of you who could make a book of the cards Lenore has sent. She to this day never misses an opportunity to make someone's day brighter.

Lenore has had a lifetime of volunteer work. PTA, Hospital Charity, Garden Club, and known as "The Plant Lady" as she and a gardening club buddy went via "The Plant Mobile" from school to school in the Boston inner city, teaching students to plant and grow plants. In addition she went weekly to The Hebrew Rehabilitation Center to help the elderly with planting and gardening. Lenore also wrote Braille. She translated books into German in Braille. First she did this by hand, and in later years had a Braille typewriter.

Lenore schlepped her children to every after-school class, whether they were interested or not. She was interested and they were going—opera, ballet, tennis matches, ice skating. That is a theme in Lenore's life—interest—great interest in everything. It can be a gray day and all Lenore will see is the little purple crocus making its way open. She is always eternally grateful and optimistic.

When Harold died—true to Lenore's style, it was soon overcome (not that one ever overcomes such loss). She soldiers on stronger and doing things her way. She moved into Newbridge and seven years later closed her California residence. She has never looked back.

Lenore does what she has always done—lives life on her terms. She exercises daily, she drinks (daily), and she drives (hopefully not at the same time). Firmly independent!

So in honor of Lenore . . . Let's all have a shot of American vodka!

Here's to you, Mom!

Cheer's to you, Mom!

RECOGNIZING COLONEL MARK BENNETT, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2018

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service of Colonel Mark Bennett who is coming to the end of his assignment as the Chief of the Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army.

Mark is a native of Ohio. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting from John Carroll University, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Syracuse University, and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Over the last year, Mark has made meaningful, significant and enduring contributions while liaising with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide critical resources for Army Warfighters. Mark and his liaison team worked closely with Members and Staff from every appropriation office in Congress; ensuring accountability to Congress and our Nation's taxpayers.

Through 26 years of active duty, Mark has served in a variety of tactical, operational, and strategic assignments. In 1990, Colonel Bennett was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned into the Army as a Field Artillery Officer. He began his operational assignments with the 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery in Korea and also served as the Task Force Finance Officer for 4th Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, for a Multi-national Force and Observers rotation to Sinai, Egypt. He had two company command experiences with the 82nd Finance Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the 177th Finance Battalion in Korea. Following completion of graduate school at Syracuse University, he served as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. Shortly after arriving to the Pentagon, he supported the Army and Nation's response to the 9-11 attacks before attending Command and General Staff College.

Colonel Bennett returned to the 82nd Airborne Division as the Division Finance Support Operations Officer at Fort Bragg and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He then served as the Executive Officer to the Director of Army Budget, as a Program Examiner at the Office of Management and Budget, and as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. He commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters

Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, New York for 31 months including a deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan. Mark returned to the Headquarters Department of the Army as the Executive Officer to the Military Deputy for Budget and Chief of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System Integration for the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller. Colonel Bennett also served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G8, for two

years at Headquarters, I Corps, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington before deploying again to Afghanistan with the Combined Security Transition Command—Afghanistan (CSTC-A).

Mr. Speaker, as Colonel Mark Bennett moves on to a new Army assignment in Texas, he leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, service, and friendship. I extend my thanks for his service and wish him and his family great success in all future endeavors.